

Summary of February 18, 2005 Discussion on Next Steps

Addressing the *Cladophora* problem along Lake Michigan is still in its early stages. Much of the research to date is in the early stages. Information provided to beach users has focused explain what the algae is and isn't! The final hour of the forum was devoted to discussing participants' questions and ideas for next steps.

Ideas:

- Create a coalition from those present, including all interested stakeholders, using International Joint Commission high water model.
- A person is needed to bring it all together.
- The Conservation Reserve Program needs to be used for creating buffers.
- We need a Governor's taskforce.
- This should be addressed in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.
- We need homeowner involvement and education.
- Create and provide a summary of actions already underway to address the *Cladophora* problem.
- Create an action plan and implementation strategy with methodology.
- Request an International Joint Commission reference.
- Governor Doyle should take leadership on the Council of Great Lakes Governors to have this problem addressed. Citizens should write the Governor.
- Landowners should be encouraged to use existing funds to install buffers and other water quality protection practices.
- Targeted Runoff grant funding should be restored.
- Fewer agencies should be involved.
- Educate your neighbors.